



SCHOOL ORGANISATION PROPOSALS

Prescribed Alterations to a Community Special School

THE PINES SCHOOL

Date of Proposal: 6th June 2016

Education and Skills Infrastructure
School Organisation Team
PO Box 15843
Birmingham
B2 2RT

Tel: 0121 303 8847

PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS OTHER THAN FOUNDATION PROPOSALS: Information to be included in a complete proposal.

Extract of Part 1 of Schedule 3 and Part 1 of Schedule 5 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations 2007 (as amended):

In respect of a Governing Body Proposal: School and governing body's details

1. The name, address and category of the school for which the governing body are publishing the proposals.

Not applicable

In respect of an LEA Proposal: School and local education authority details

1. The name, address and category of the school.

Birmingham City Council, Education & Skills Infrastructure, PO BOX 15843, Birmingham B2 2RT.

School Name: The Pines School

Address: Dreghorn Road, Castle Bromwich, Birmingham B36 8LL

Category: Community Special School

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

2. The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented, and if they are to be implemented in stages, a description of what is planned for each stage, and the number of stages intended and the dates of each stage.

Phase 1: Relocation of The Pines School, Dreghorn Road, Birmingham B36 8LL to Stockland Green Community & Learning Village from 1st September 2016.

Phase 2: A phased increase in the number of primary aged pupils from 95 to 130 with effect from 1st September 2016.

Phase 3: Alteration of the upper age limit of the school from 11 to 16 years so as to offer secondary provision (up to 60 places) as part of a phased increase with effect from 1st September 2017.

Objections and comments

3. A statement explaining the procedure for making representations, including:

(a) the date prescribed in accordance with paragraph 29 of Schedule 3 (GB proposals)/Schedule 5 (LA proposals) of The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), by which objections or comments should be sent to the local education authority; and

(b) the address of the authority to which objections or comments should be sent.

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to or make comments on any or all of the proposals by visiting www.birmingham.gov.uk/schools/thepines or by writing to School Organisation Team, Education and Skills Infrastructure, PO Box 15843, Birmingham B2 2RT. The last date for comments is 4th July 2016. A copy of the public notice can be found in Appendix 1.

Alteration description

4. A description of the proposed alteration and in the case of special school proposals, a description of the current special needs provision.

The proposed changes are as follows:

1. Transfer The Pines School from Dreghorn Road, Castle Bromwich, Birmingham B36 8LL, to a new site at Stockland Green Community and Learning Village, Marsh Hill, Erdington, Birmingham B23 7EY; with effect from 1st September 2016.
2. A phased increase in the number of primary-aged pupils from 95 to 130 with effect from 1st September 2016.
3. Alteration of the upper age limit of the school from 11 years to 16 years so as to offer secondary provision with effect from 1st September 2017. The number of secondary pupil places the school will eventually be able to offer will be 60; however, these places will be created on a phased basis.

The Pines School currently educates pupils of 2 – 11 years. The school educates children with autistic spectrum conditions.

School capacity

5.—(1) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1 to 4, 8, 9 and 12-14 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/paragraphs 1-4, 7, 8, 18, 19 and 21 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), the proposals must also include —

- (a) details of the current capacity of the school and, where the proposals will alter the capacity of the school, the proposed capacity of the school after the alteration;

The Pines School currently has 93 pupils on roll and can offer up to 95 places, and plans to be able to offer up to 130 places by 1st September 2016. This will be a phased increase.

The Pines School will alter the upper age limit from 11 to 16 years with effect from 1st September 2017. The number of secondary places the school will eventually be able to offer is 60 and these places will be created on a phased basis.

- (b) details of the current number of pupils admitted to the school in each relevant age group, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of pupils to be admitted in each relevant age group in the first school year in which the proposals will have been implemented;

Special schools do not have an admission number per year group.

The pupils attending the school will have a statement of special education needs that will name the schools. The pupils are not admitted solely in any specific year.

The current numbers on roll, per year group are as follows:

N = 7

R = 11

Y1 = 13

Y2 = 12

Y3 = 13

Y4 = 11

Y5 = 13

Y6 = 13

TOTAL = 93 currently on roll as at June 2016.

- (c) where it is intended that proposals should be implemented in stages, the number of pupils to be admitted to the school in the first school year in which each stage will have been implemented;

Special schools do not have an admission number per year group.

The pupils attending the school will have a statement of special education needs or Education and Health Care Plan that will name the schools. The pupils are not admitted solely in any specific year.

The additional primary places and the secondary places will be phased as they are offered following referral from the Special Educational Assessment and Referral team at the Local Authority.

- (d) where the number of pupils in any relevant age group is lower than the indicated admission number for that relevant age group a statement to this effect and details of the indicated admission number in question.

Not applicable – special schools do not have an admission number per year group.

(2) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1, 2, 9, 12 and 13 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals) /paragraphs 1, 2, 8, 18 and 19 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), a statement of the number of pupils at the school at the time of the publication of the proposals.

At the time of publication, the total number of students on roll is: 93 pupils.

Implementation

6. Where the proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary controlled school a statement as to whether the proposals are to be implemented by the local education authority or by the governing body, and, if the proposals are to be implemented by both, a statement as to the extent to which they are to be implemented by each body.

Not applicable

Additional Site

7.—(1) A statement as to whether any new or additional site will be required if proposals are implemented and if so the location of the site if the school is to occupy a split site.

It has been confirmed that the school is relocating to a new site at the Stockland Green Community and Learning Village. The site address is: Marsh Hill, Erdington, Birmingham B23 7EY. Please see “transfer to a new site” section 9 below for further information.

(2) Where proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary school a statement as to who will provide any additional site required, together with details of the tenure (freehold or leasehold) on which the site of the school will be held, and if the site is to be held on a lease, details of the proposed lease.

Not applicable

Changes in boarding arrangements

8. —(1) Where the proposals are for the introduction or removal of boarding provision, or the alteration of existing boarding provision such as is mentioned in paragraph 8 or 21 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/7 or 14 of Schedule 4 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended) —

(a) the number of pupils for whom it is intended that boarding provision will be made if the proposals are approved;

Not applicable

(b) the arrangements for safeguarding the welfare of children at the school;

Not applicable

(c) the current number of pupils for whom boarding provision can be made and a description of the boarding provision; and

Not applicable

(d) except where the proposals are to introduce boarding provision, a description of the existing boarding provision.

Not applicable

(2) Where the proposals are for the removal of boarding provisions or an alteration to reduce boarding provision such as is mentioned in paragraph 8 or 21 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/7 or 14 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended) —

(a) the number of pupils for whom boarding provision will be removed if the proposals are approved; and

Not applicable

(b) a statement as to the use to which the former boarding accommodation will be put if the proposals are approved.

Not applicable

Transfer to new site

9. Where the proposals are to transfer a school to a new site the following information—

(a) the location of the proposed site (including details of whether the school is to occupy a single or split site), and including where appropriate the postal address;

The school will be transferring entirely to a new site at Stockland Green Community and Learning Village, Marsh Hill, Erdington, Birmingham B23 7EY. The school will occupy a single site.

(b) the distance between the proposed and current site;

The distance between the current site at Dregghorn Road and the new site at Stockland Green Community and Learning Village is 8.5km (5.3 miles).

(c) the reason for the choice of proposed site;

The relocation to the new site and the changes proposed are considered appropriate for the pupils at the school in order to provide an improved accommodation solution. The solution will enable the school to better meet the needs of its pupils. The relocation is

part of the Special Schools Additional Places Programme and will provide fit for purpose remodelled accommodation. The relocation will provide more space for the staff and pupils, enabling the expansion of the primary provision and the addition of secondary provision. Overall the choice of site will provide enhanced accommodation for the school enabling them to become an all-through school and help towards addressing the shortage of ASC places in the City.

(d) the accessibility of the proposed site or sites;

The development works to remodel the accommodation for The Pines will ensure that the proposed new school site at Stockland Green Community and Learning Village will comply with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and be fully accessible.

(e) the proposed arrangements for transport of pupils to the school on its new site; and

The Education Transport team has been advised of the proposed changes and will be fully engaged in the process. They will continue to provide the home school transport level of provision that the children need to ensure that they can attend the Stockland Green Community and Learning Village site. The Local Authority's transport arrangements will apply.

(f) a statement about other sustainable transport alternatives where pupils are not using transport provided, and how car use in the school area will be discouraged.

The School Travel Plan will be updated following the implementation of the changes to promote sustainable transport and reduce car use where possible. This is currently in line to be updated with the Local Authority in readiness.

Objectives

10. The objectives of the proposals.

Birmingham City Council is proposing the above prescribed changes in line with the Special Schools Additional Places Programme. The changes are considered appropriate for the pupils and staff at the school and will enable them to better meet the needs of its pupils. The relocation of pupils from and closure of the Pines School's current site at Dreghorn Road in Castle Bromwich, is part of a programme to enhance the overall school accommodation solution for the school's current and future pupils. The Stockland Green Community and Learning Village is considered to be the preferred site to meet the needs of a whole school solution to accommodate additional pupils.

The decision to build capacity at The Pines School at the new site and alter the age range to 16 will create an all through special school for pupils from the age of 2 – 16 years with Autistic Spectrum Conditions (ASC). This will help to address a shortage of both primary and secondary places for children with statements of ASC. It will allow some children to remain at The Pines Special School until they are 16 as opposed to transferring to a new provision at the age of 11 years, and enable a greater number of pupils to access successful provision. The school has an excellent teaching record, with outstanding achievement and progress for its students. The proposed changes will offer professional development and improve retention and recruitment of the school's high quality teaching and non-teaching staff.

Consultation

11. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—
a list of persons who were consulted;

- minutes of all public consultation meetings;
- the views of the persons consulted;
- a statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with; and
- copies of all consultation documents and a statement on how these documents were made available.

All statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with. Due regard and careful consideration was given to the guidance contained within 'School Organisation - Maintained Schools, Guidance for Proposers and Decision-Makers' document, April 2016. All individuals or bodies suggested in the guidance are being consulted and their views considered.

These proposals were originally published in September 2014, a four week representation period followed publication. The proposals were approved by Cabinet on 17th November 2014.

As the original implementation date could not be met fresh proposals are being published and fresh approval is being sought with new dates.

As part of the original pre-statutory consultation, all pupils, parents, Governors, teaching and non-teaching staff were sent a consultation document pack. A pre-statutory consultation meeting was held at the school on 4th July 2014 for parents, with attendance by some staff and Governors. Officers also advised local councillors prior to the consultation meeting of the proposed changes. All teaching associations and trade unions, The Archdiocesan and The Anglican Diocese of Birmingham, Executive Members for Sutton Coldfield and Erdington, respective ward councillors and all neighbouring authorities were advised of the consultation by email and advised how to obtain consultation packs.

Project costs

12. A statement of the estimated total capital cost of the proposals and the breakdown of the costs that are to be met by the governing body, the local education authority, and any other party.

This project is part of the Special Schools Additional Places capital programme, funded through Basic Need and Targeted Basic Need funding allocations. The project costs are estimated at: £6 million.

13. A copy of confirmation from the Secretary of State, local education authority and the Learning and Skills Council for England (as the case may be) that funds will be made available (including costs to cover any necessary site purchase).

All costs will be met by Birmingham City Council through a combination of their Basic Need and Targeted Basic Need funding allocations.

Age range

14. Where the proposals relate to a change in age range, the current age range for the school.

Current age range is 2 years to 11 years.

Early year's provision

15. Where the proposals are to alter the lower age limit of a mainstream school so that it provides for pupils aged between 2 and 5—

- (a) details of the early years provision, including the number of full-time and part-time pupils, the number and length of sessions in each week, and the services for disabled children that will be offered;

Not applicable

- (b) how the school will integrate the early years provision with childcare services and how the proposals are consistent with the integration of early years provision for childcare;

Not applicable

- (c) evidence of parental demand for additional provision of early years provision;

Not applicable

- (d) assessment of capacity, quality and sustainability of provision in schools and in establishments other than schools who deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage within 3 miles of the school; and

Not applicable

- (e) reasons why such schools and establishments who have spare capacity cannot make provision for any forecast increase in the number of such provision.

Not applicable

Changes to sixth form provision

16. (a) Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school provides sixth form education or additional sixth form education, a statement of how the proposals will—

- (i) improve the educational or training achievements;
- (ii) increase participation in education or training; and
- (iii) expand the range of educational or training opportunities for 16-19 year olds in the area;

Not applicable

(b) A statement as to how the new places will fit within the 16-19 organisation in an area;

Not applicable

(c) Evidence —

- (i) of the local collaboration in drawing up the proposals; and
- (ii) that the proposals are likely to lead to higher standards and better progression at the school;

Not applicable

(d) The proposed number of sixth form places to be provided.

Not applicable

17. Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school ceases to provide sixth form education, a statement of the effect on the supply of 16-19 places in the area.

Not applicable

Special educational needs

18. Where the proposals are to establish or change of provision for special educational needs—

- (a) a description of the proposed types of learning difficulties in respect of which education will be provided and, where provision for special educational needs already exists, the current type of provision;

The school provides education for pupils diagnosed with Autistic Spectrum Conditions (ASC). This current designation will remain in place after the proposed changes.

- (b) any additional specialist features will be provided;

Not applicable

- (c) the proposed numbers of pupils for which the provision is to be made;

The school will have capacity for up to 130 primary pupils with effect from 1st September 2016. This is an increase from their current number of primary pupils (95). The increase in pupil numbers will be phased. The proposal will also enable the school to take up to 60 secondary pupils from September 2017, again, through an appropriate phased intake.

- (d) details of how the provision will be funded;

All costs will be met by Birmingham City Council through Basic Need and Targeted Basic Need funding allocations.

- (e) a statement as to whether the education will be provided for children with special educational needs who are not registered pupils at the school to which the proposals relate;

The school will continue to accommodate all of its current pupils.

- (f) a statement as to whether the expenses of the provision will be met from the school's delegated budget;

All costs will be met by Birmingham City Council through Basic Need and Targeted Basic Need funding allocations.

- (g) the location of the provision if it is not to be established on the existing site of the school;

The school will transfer entirely to the Stockland Green Community and Learning Village, Marsh Hill, Erdington, Birmingham B23 7EY.

- (h) where the provision will replace existing educational provision for children with special educational needs, a statement as to how the local education authority believes that the new provision is likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children; and

The proposal will include the relocation of pupils from the Castle Bromwich site to the Stockland Green site. The proposals are conducive with the school's aspirations to improve the standard and quality of educational provision for its current and future children.

The pupils from The Pines school will transfer to the proposed site at Stockland Green Community and Learning Village and will be taught in fit-for-purpose remodelled

accommodation. The proposed changes are considered appropriate for the current pupils at the school in order to provide an improved accommodation solution and better meet their needs. The expansions and alteration of upper age range will enable more pupils to access the successful provision at the school.

- (i) the number of places reserved for children with special educational needs, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of such places.

The number of places will increase from 95 to 130 for primary aged provision. The number of secondary places created will be 60. Both expansions will be on a phased increase.

19. Where the proposals are to discontinue provision for special educational needs—

- (a) details of alternative provision for pupils for whom the provision is currently made;

Not applicable, the provision will continue but on a different site

- (b) details of the number of pupils for whom provision is made that is recognised by the local education authority as reserved for children with special educational needs during each of the 4 school years preceding the current school year;

Not applicable

- (c) details of provision made outside the area of the local education authority for pupils whose needs will not be able to be met in the area of the authority as a result of the discontinuance of the provision; and

Not applicable

- (d) a statement as to how the proposer believes that the proposals are likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children.

Not applicable

20. Where the proposals will lead to alternative provision for children with special educational needs, as a result of the establishment, alteration or discontinuance of existing provision, the specific educational benefits that will flow from the proposals in terms of—

- (a) improved access to education and associated services including the curriculum, wider school activities, facilities and equipment with reference to the local education authority's Accessibility Strategy;
- (b) improved access to specialist staff, both educational and other professionals, including any external support and outreach services;
- (c) improved access to suitable accommodation; and
- (d) improved supply of suitable places.

The changes are considered appropriate for the current pupils at the school in order to provide an improved accommodation solution and better meet the needs of its pupils. The decision to build capacity at The Pines School and alter the age range in order for the school to become an all-through special school will, not only address the shortage of both primary and secondary places for children with ASC, but allow some children at The Pines Special School to remain until they are 16 as opposed to transferring to a new provision at the age of 11 years. The relocation of pupils from and closure of The Pines School current site at Dreghorn Road in Castle Bromwich, is part of a programme to enhance the overall

school accommodation solution for the school and its pupils. The Stockland Green Community and Learning Village is considered to be the preferred site to meet the needs of a whole school solution to accommodate additional pupils.

The school has an excellent teaching record with outstanding achievement and progress for its students. The expansion of and the alteration to the site will offer professional development and will improve retention and recruitment of the school's high quality teaching and non-teaching staff.

Sex of pupils

21. Where the proposals are to make an alteration to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of one sex only becomes an establishment which admits pupils of both sexes—

(a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single sex-education in the area;

Not applicable

(b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education; and

Not applicable

(c) details of any transitional period which the body making the proposals wishes specified in a transitional exemption order (within the meaning of section 27 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975).

Not applicable

22. Where the proposals are to make an alteration to a school to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of both sexes becomes an establishment which admits pupils of one sex only—

(a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single-sex education in the area; and

Not applicable

(b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education.

Not applicable

Extended services

23. If the proposed alterations affect the provision of the school's extended services, details of the current extended services the school is offering and details of any proposed change as a result of the alterations.

Not applicable

Need or demand for additional places

24. If the proposals involve adding places—

(a) a statement and supporting evidence of the need or demand for the particular places in the area;

Birmingham City Council is proposing the changes in line with the Special Schools Additional Places Programme.

- Between 2013-15 an additional 245 young people with complex needs were placed in special schools in Birmingham.
- On the basis of current demand for special school places, without factoring in trends in complex needs, our model indicates the need for approximately 800 additional places from 2013–21; based purely on growth while assuming that the proportion of young people with complex needs remains constant and the proportion of those young people educated in special schools remains constant.
- By 2015 Birmingham will have provided 10,560 new places through our Basic Need Capital Programme. In line with population growth, it is anticipated the numbers of pupils with special educational needs will also increase.

The decision to build capacity at The Pines School at the new site and alter the age range will create an all through special school for pupils from the age of 2 – 16 years with Autistic Spectrum Conditions (ASC). This will help to address the shortage of both primary and secondary places for pupils with statements of ASC provision in the City.

Please find here a link to the Birmingham Special Education Needs Sufficiency Requirements document published in January 2016 which includes the above information and further information on the requirement www.birmingham.gov.uk/schools/esr .

- (b) where the school has a religious character, a statement and supporting evidence of the demand in the area for education in accordance with the tenets of the religion or religious denomination;

Not applicable

- (c) where the school adheres to a particular philosophy, evidence of the demand for education in accordance with the philosophy in question and any associated change to the admission arrangements for the school.

Not applicable

25. If the proposals involve removing places—

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the reasons for the removal, including an assessment of the impact on parental choice; and

Not applicable

- (b) a statement on the local capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

Not applicable

Expansion of successful and popular schools

25A. (1) Proposals must include a statement of whether the proposer considers that the presumption for the expansion of successful and popular schools should apply, and where the governing body consider the presumption applies, evidence to support this.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) applies to expansion proposals in respect of primary and secondary schools, (except for grammar schools), i.e. falling within:

(a) (for proposals published by the governing body) paragraph 1 of Part 1 to Schedule 2 or paragraph 12 of Part 2 to Schedule 2;

(b) (for proposals published by the LA) paragraph 1 of Part 1 to Schedule 4 or 18 of Part 4 to Schedule 4 of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended).

Not applicable

Appendix 1

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

Proposal to Make Prescribed Alteration

The Pines School

Notice is given in accordance with section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and regulation 6 of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 that Birmingham City Council proposes to make the following prescribed alterations to The Pines School (a community special school), Dreghorn Road, Castle Bromwich, Birmingham B36 8LL which currently can offer up to 95 primary places to pupils with a statement of special educational needs or Education, Health and Care Plan for Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC);

- Transfer The Pines School from Dreghorn Road, Castle Bromwich, Birmingham B36 8LL to a new site at Stockland Green Community and Learning Village, Marsh Hill, Erdington, Birmingham B23 7EY with effect from 1st September 2016.
- Increase the number of primary-aged pupil places that the school can offer from 95 to 130 with effect from 1st September 2016; however these additional places will be created on a phased basis.
- Alteration of the upper age limit of the school from 11 years to 16 years so as to offer secondary provision with effect from 1st September 2017. The number of secondary pupil places the school will eventually be able to offer will be 60; however, these places will be created on a phased basis.

This notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be found at www.birmingham.gov.uk/schools/thepines

A notice relating to these proposals was previously published on 18th September 2014 and approved by Cabinet Committee on 17th November 2014. As the original implementation dates could not be met we are issuing fresh proposals and seeking fresh approval with new dates.

If you require a hard copy of the complete proposal, this can be obtained by writing to: School Organisation Team, Education and Skills Infrastructure, PO Box 15843, Birmingham B2 2RT.

Within four weeks of the date of the publication of this proposal, anyone who wishes to make a representation about this proposal should either make comments through the web site or by writing to School Organisation Team at the above postal address.

Signed: Peter Hay, Strategic Director for People

Date: 6th June 2016